Amendments to the Claims:

This amendment of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for ~~the preparation and~~ purification of protein(s) comprising:

(a) centrifuging ~~the~~ cell lysate obtained from vector cells expressing said protein(s) between 1000 g and 10,000 g to form a ~~supernatant~~ soluble ~~portion~~ fraction and an ~~solid~~ insoluble~~portion~~ fraction ;

(b) obtaining ~~the~~ insoluble fraction of step (a) wherein the insoluble ~~portion~~ fraction comprises the protein(s);

(c) suspending the insoluble ~~portion~~ fraction in a buffer of pH 6 to ~~[[7.5]]~~ 7.5;

(d) forming an insoluble matrix ~~after step (d)~~ by the addition of divalent ionic salt having a concentration ranging from 0.2% to 10% with counter ions of either phosphate, chloride and/or acetate solution to the suspension of step (c);

(e) subjecting the insoluble matrix obtained in step (d) to centrifugation to form a pellet;

(f) repeatedly subjecting the pellet obtained from step (e) to a desorption process to release the protein(s) from said insoluble pellet by using either TRIS buffer of pH [[8.0]] 8.0 to 8.5 or TRIS with EDTA buffer at pH 7.0 to 8.0; and

(g) recovering the protein(s) through hydrophobic chromatography.

2. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1 wherein said protein(s) is/are expressed in yeast.

3. (Currently Amended) A process for ~~the preparation and~~ purification of protein(s) comprising:

(a) centrifuging ~~the~~ cell lysate obtained from vector cells expressing said protein(s) between 1000 g and 10,000 g to form a ~~supernatant portion~~ soluble fraction and ~~solid portion~~ an insoluble fraction;

(b) obtaining the insoluble fraction of step (a) wherein the insoluble ~~portion~~ fraction comprises the protein(s);

(c) suspending the ~~pellet portion~~ insoluble fraction ~~portion~~ in a buffer of pH 6 to ~~[[7.5]]~~ 7.5 having divalent ions ranging from 0.2% to 10% with counter ions of either phosphate, chloride and/or acetate ~~wherein a detergent is not used~~; and
(d) eluting said protein(s) with TRIS buffer of pH 8.0 to 8.5.

4. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 2, wherein said protein is a viral antigen.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The process of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 2, wherein said protein is one other than a viral antigen.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The process of claim ~~[[7]]~~ 1, wherein the chromatographically purified portions containing the protein(s) are pooled for diafiltration and/or for sterile filtration.

9. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 8, wherein the divalent ionic salt is a salt of divalent cation Zn, Ca, or Mg, or a combination thereof.

10. (Withdrawn)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn)

13. (Withdrawn)

14. (Currently Amended) The process of claims ~~8~~ 1 and 3, wherein the said proteins are highly purified without the loss of biological activity.

15. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein contaminants do not interfere with the process of ~~preparation and~~ purification of said proteins.

16. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~2~~1 and 3, wherein said proteins are viral antigens, recombinant proteins, and/or bio-therapeutic proteins.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The process of claim 16, wherein said proteins are simultaneously prepared and purified~~ The process of claim 14, wherein the biological activity of the said proteins after purification ranges from at least 70% to 95%.

18. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 16, wherein said proteins are selected from the group consisting of: Rabies antigen, Hepatitis A antigen, Hepatitis B antigen, Diphtheria toxoid and Tetanus toxoid.